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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. John Yates II, Falls Church Baptist Church. Incidentally, he is the pastor of Holly Richardson who works with me and of whom I am so proud.

We are glad to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. John Yates II, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, You are the King Eternal. You rule over all. Your light divides the day from night.

Thank You for the gift of this new day. Give us a spirit of gratitude and wonder at Your creation. Drive from us all wrong desires; guide us in the way of peace and justice that, having done Your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give You thanks and rest in Your care.

We pray today for statesmen, leaders, and rulers everywhere and especially for the Members of this United States Senate and their fellow workers.

May they be quiet in spirit, clear in judgment, able to understand the issues that face them. May they think often of the people on whose behalf they speak and act. May these Senators remember You. May they remember that keeping Your laws bring us only good and happiness. Grant them patience; grant them courage; grant them foresight and great faith. In their anxieties, be their security; in their opportunities, be their inspiration. By their plans and their actions, may Your kingdom come; may Your will be done.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Idaho is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. unless an agreement is reached for the consideration of the energy and water appropriations conference report. It is hoped the Senate will begin that conference report at approximately 11 a.m. for 45 minutes of debate. If that agreement is reached, Senators may anticipate that the first rollcall vote will occur at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Following the party conference meetings, the Senate may begin consideration of the digital millennium legislation or any conference reports or appropriations bills available for action while waiting for the continuing resolution from the House. Therefore, Senators may anticipate votes throughout the day.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair.

FACING THE DEADLINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are facing a deadline this week—October 1. Every family in America knows about deadlines: April 15, you had better get your taxes in. A deadline is coming for shopping for Christmas, for Hanukkah. We are faced with many deadlines. October 1 is another deadline; that is our fiscal year. If Congress does nothing else during the course of a session, we are supposed to pass spending bills so when the fiscal year starts, the agencies know how much money they have and can go about the business of conducting their affairs and managing the Government.

Now, I will have to be honest with you; in the 17 years I have been on Capitol Hill, in the House and Senate, rarely, if ever, has any party in control of the Senate or the House really met that deadline, had everything in place by October 1. Sometimes it takes a little extra time to put it together. But I would have to tell you that in my experience on the Hill, I can never recall a time when we reached October 1, as we will this week, with such chaos. There appears to be no plan in place, no conversation between the leaders on Capitol Hill and the White House, and we will be asked today to vote on what is called a continuing resolution; that is, an extension of about 3 weeks so we can continue the business of Government while the leaders of the House and Senate get down to the business of leading. I hope that happens because, frankly, to date, we have seen precious little leadership when it comes to the important issues facing our country.

I am going to yield the floor at this point to my colleague from the State

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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